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Coal Supplies. *Royal Commission's Report on the Coal Supplies of Great Britain.*

Not since Professor Stanley Jevons' book on the coal resources of Great Britain appeared in 1871, has there been so searching an inquiry into the status of the United Kingdom's fuel resources as that just reported by the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies. This commission was appointed in December, 1901, having spent over three years in the preparation of its report.

In arriving at a basis of estimating the available supplies of coal, the depth of 4,000 feet was taken as the limit of practicable working. At this depth no insuperable difficulties, either mechanical or engineering, were deemed likely to arise. Workings at Pendleton at a temperature of $92\frac{1}{2}$ degrees were as comfortable as formerly at 82. On the continent 4,900 feet are regarded by experts as the working limit.

The available quantity of coal in proved fields of the United Kingdom is estimated to be 100,914,668,167 tons, or 10,700,000,000 tons in excess of the estimate of the commission of 1871, on whose figures Jevons based his rather startling conclusions.

In view of this estimate, and the anticipation that the present rate of increase in the output will be checked by natural causes, it seemed to the commission that there is no present necessity to restrict artificially the export of coal in order to conserve it for our home supply. This is the commission's answer to the cry that England was selling out this basic factor of her competitive effectiveness.

Various economies in working and consumption are suggested, and, although the commission is unable to point to any real substitute, other possible sources of power are mentioned which may slightly relieve the demand for coal. These include water power and fuel oil. Irregularity in oil supply makes it necessary for the navy especially to continue to rely on coal.

Going on to deal with waste in working, the commission assumes that improved methods and appliances may result in the getting of a greater percentage of coal than that which it has estimated to be available. Among these are included better methods of cutting and assorting. The machine methods of cutting coal, so widely used in the United States, are commended as more economical.

The commission states that the probable duration of British coal resources turns chiefly upon the maintenance or variation of annual output, which is at present about 230,000,000 tons.

For the past thirty years the average increase in the output has been $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and that of the exports (including bunkers) $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It is the general opinion of the district commissioners that, owing to physical considerations, it is highly improbable that the present rate of increase of the output of coal can long continue; and, in view of this opinion and of the exhaustion of the shallower collieries, the commission looks forward to a time, not far distant, when the rate of increase of output will be slower, to be followed by a period of stationary output, and then a gradual decline.

Economy in domestic consumption is mainly to be expected from the adoption of central heating in houses, the open fire being merely used as

supplementary to the general warming of hot-water pipes or stoves; and it is said that on a safe estimate more than half of the present consumption of about 32,000,000 tons per year could thus be saved.

The competitive power of Great Britain, it is held, has been affected by two factors: (1) The steady increase of the cost of working, and (2) the imposition of the export duty early in 1901. Nevertheless, Great Britain has lost little ground as a coal-trading nation, except in countries where a local supply has been developed and in markets which more naturally are commercially tributary to Germany and to the United States. On the whole the report is rather reassuring to the traditional British faith in the free operation of economic laws.

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Cutler, James E. *Lynch Law*. Pp. ix, 287. Price, \$1.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1905.

Dr. Cutler has put all students of social conditions in the United States under deep obligation by his careful and comprehensive study. The book opens with a general survey and an attempt to trace the origin of the term "lynch," which is found to be of Virginia extraction, originally used of extra legal whippings. The author then distinguishes between the frontier justice where regular courts are not established and what is to-day generally called lynching in otherwise law-governed communities. The question is then extended chronologically and the presence of such events shown from early time. The arguments in justification are cited and the attempts to overcome it by laws punishing lynchers are reviewed. Many accounts of actual occurrences are given. The author believes that the explanation lies in the attitude of the American people towards the law, that we have not yet developed to the point where law *as law* is respected as in Europe. Hence lynching is tolerated because in considerable measure as a sort of common law. Our situation is further complicated by the race differences. It will not cease till public sentiment really condemns it. The author is hopeful about the future. The few lynchings in the past nine months would seem to indicate a rising tide of opposition. Tables showing number of lynchings are given and detailed analyses made. The volume will repay careful study, even if exception is occasionally taken to some of the author's conclusions. The volume represents a great amount of research work and the author is to be congratulated upon the manner in which the material is presented.

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Fish, Carl Russell. *The Civil Service and Patronage*. Vol. XI. Harvard Historical Studies. Pp. xi, 280. Price, \$2.00. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1905.

This book is distinctively a history of the patronage, and as such deserves recognition as a valuable contribution in this particular field. The author is